Direct Train between Delhi and Jhansi

†2843. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run a direct train from Delhi to Jhansi, which is the nearest railway station to Khajuraho, the main tourist centre of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) whether there is any scope of extending Hazrat Nizamuddin Gwalior Taj Express upto Jhansi, with a view to facilitate the tourists heading for Taj Mahal and Khajuraho?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed in the Railway Budget 2001-2002 to introduce New Delhi-Bilaspur Rajdhani Express (weekly) and Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Express (weekly) with stoppages at Jhansi.

(b) No, Sir.

Sub-Standard Food in Trains from Orissa

2844. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the S.E. Railway authorities at Kolkata have received complaints regarding supply of sub-standard food in all trains running from Orissa to States outside Orissa, including Delhi and Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): No, Sir. There is no complaint regarding supply of sub-standard food in all trains running from Orissa to outside States over S.E. Railway.

Re-use of Wooden Rail Slippers

2845. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to change over from wooden to concrete slippers, the Railways are suffering loss of crores of rupees as wooden slippers are lying besides the tracks, exposed to sun and rain;

(b) whether hutment dwellersare using these slippers for their use; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme to re-use such slippers for any other purpose?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) After wooden slippers have spent their useful life in the track and become unfit for use in Railway tracks, they are put to other uses or disposed off as scrap.

Doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore rail line

2846. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took urgent steps to complete the ongoing doubling of rail line between Shoranur and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to ensure safety of Rail bridges on this route, after the collapse of bridge at Kadulundi;

(d) how many new bridges are going to be constructed on this line; and

(e) the details regarding the progress of this construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work is in progress in various stages in entire section. Necessary funds have been allocated for the work in the current year.

(c) The bridges are being inspected at various levels from Section Engineer level to Chief Engineer level as per prescribed schedule and system and repairs are being carried out promptly and action taken to rehabilitate bridges on programmed basis subject to availability of funds.

(d) and (e) 14 bridges are sanctioned for rehabilitation on this section and are in various stages of progress.

Doubling of Bina and Ashok Nagar Rail Line

2847. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passengers at Bina Railway Station, from all over India, have to wait for several hours for going to Anandpur (M.P.) due to single rail line between Bina and Ashok Nagar;